

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00363 01 OF 02 191607Z
ACTION A-01

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 0363

A ONLY: ATTENTION HOWE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AREP (SMITH, NEAL)
SUBJECT: INSTRUCTIONS IN REPORTING CABLE/CODEL SMITH

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION BELGRADE PRIORITY JAN 9 H/W REPEATED
FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 0363

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION: CONGRESSMEN SMITH AND
ANDREWS WITH VITALIY RUBEN

1. THERE FOLLOWS FOR CLEARANCE BY CODEL SMITH A RECORD OF THE
40 MINUTE CONVERSATION WHICH TOOK PLACE ON THE EVENING OF JAN 6
BETWEEN CONGRESSMEN SMITH AND ANDREWS AND VITALIY P. RUBEN,
CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF NATIONALITIES, SUPREME SOVIET, IN THE LATTER'S
KREMLIN OFFICE:

2. QUOTE -- SMITH: AS MEMBERS, LIKE YOURSELF OF A LEGISLATIVE
BODY WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH MEETINGS AND EXCHANGES OF VIEWS CAN
HELP IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING THE
SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION LED BY PONOMREV LATER THIS MONTH.

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RUBEN: I'M HAPPY TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND MY
ACQUAINTANCE WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER
THIS IS YOUR FIRST TRIP HERE BUT IN ANY EVENT I WELCOME YOU TO
THE ANCIENT KREMLIN, THE SEAT OF THE HIGHEST ORGANS OF THE USSR.
SMITH: I WAS HERE ON AN EDUCATIONAL TOUR IN 1960 AND VISITED THE
KREMLIN BUT OF COURSE I DIDN'T HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET YOU THEN.
ANDREWS: THIS IS MY FIRST VISIT. I MIGHT NOTE THAT I AM PROUD

TO REPRESENT A CONSTITUENCY WHICH HAS MORE THIRD GENERATION RUSSIANS THAN ANY OTHER CONSTITUENCY IN THE U.S. THEY CAME TO NORTH DAKOTA AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY AS REFUGEES FROM TSARIST PERSECUTION. I ALSO NOTE THAT THE WHEATHER IN NORTH DAKOTA IS JUST LIKE THAT HERE.

RUBEN: WE'RE VERY MUCH ALIKE IN SOME WAYS. THE ONLY THING THAT DIVIDES US IS DISTANCE BUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN TRANSPORT ALLOWS US TO COVER THAT DISTANCE QUICKLY. DISTANCE IS NOT OUR BIGGEST PROBLEM; RATHER IT IS THE EXISTENCE OF CERTAIN BARRIERS OF UNFAMILIARITY, OF LACK OF COMPLETE KNOWLEDGE OF EACH OTHER.

SMITH: YOU AND WE HAVE ORGANIZED A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF PRODUCTION. GEOGRAPHICALLY WE ARE LOCATED SOMEWHAT DIFFERENTLY AND HAVE DIFFERENT CLIMATES AND RESOURCES. IT IS IN BOTH OUR INTERESTS TO EXAMINE WAYS IN WHICH WE MIGHT BEST UTILIZE OUR RESOURCES TO HELP EACH OTHER.

RUBEN: I VERY MUCH AGREE. THEREFORE WE SHOULD DEVELOP OUR CONTACTS AND EXTINGUISH THOSE CONFRONTATIONS WHICH SOMETIMES INTERFERE WITH BUSINESSLIKE DISCUSSIONS.

SMITH: THE MORE WE CAN TRADE THE LESS MISUNDERSTANDING WILL ENSUE AND THE MORE WE CAN REALIZE THE POSSIBILITIES OF HELPING EACH OTHER.

RUBEN: TRUE, BUT SOMEONE FROM YOUR SIDE INTERFERES WITH THAT. THE JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT RESULTED IN THE FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT THE 1972 TRADE AGREEMENT WHICH HAD BEEN WELL CONCEIVED.

ANDREWS: I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT THIS DOES NOT REPRESENT THE FEELING OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AT HEART. FIFTEEN YEARS AGO MR.

SMITH AND I BOTH VOTED FOR THE SALE OF GRAIN TO THE SOVIET UNION.
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WHEN I RETURNED HOME AFTER THAT VOTE MY DAUGHTER TOLD ME THAT AT THE STATE FAIR PEOPLE WERE HANDING OUT PAMPHLETS SAYING THAT I WAS A COMMUNIST WHICH IS LIKE YOU BEING CALLED A CAPITALIST HERE.

RUBEN: (LAUGHING) TRAVELLING ABROAD I OFTEN AM MISTAKEN FOR AN AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN, BUT THAT'S ONLY MY APPEARANCE: I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THINK WELL OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE AND, I BELIEVE, OF THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP. THEREFORE, I NEED NO REASSURANCES. BUT AMONG YOUR CONGRESSIONAL COLLEAGUES NOT ALL ARE IN A MOOD TO EXTEND THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP TO ME AND THE SOVIET PEOPLE.

ANDREWS: YOU'RE RIGHT BUT YOU KNOW OUR CONGRESS IS A STRANGE AND CURIOUS ANIMAL TAKEN COLLECTIVELY.

RUBEN: I BELIEVE THAT (CORRECT) ORGANIZATION AND A DESIRE TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING WILL HELP SOLVE THIS.

SMITH: THERE WAS A TIME WHEN MANY IN OUR COUNTRY SAID THAT WHAT WAS GOOD FOR THE USSR MUST BE MAD FOR THE U.S. NOW THEY REALIZE THAT THIS IS NOT NECESSARILY TRUE. THERE ARE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH CAN BENEFIT BOTH SIDES. FOR INSTANCE, OUR EXCESS GRAIN CAN BE SOLD TO THE USSR AND IF THE SOVIET SIDE HAS SOME GOOD PRODUCTS TO SELL TO THE US THEN THAT'S GOOD FOR BOTH.

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A ONLY: ATTENTION HOWE

RUBEN: OF COURSE. FACTS SHOW THAT OUR TRADE WITH OTHER NATIONS HAS GROWN TO 12-13 BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY, BUT WITH THE U.S. IT'S RELATIVELY VERY LITTLE. FOR EXAMPLE OUR TRADE WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY IS MUCH LARGER THAN WITH YOU DESPITE THE FACT THAT YOUR ECONOMY IS MUCH BIGGER THAN THAT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. IT IS TRUE THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THE JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT OUR BILATERAL TRADE HAS INCREASED RECENTLY BUT IT COULD BE MUCH MORE. WE ARE NOT THE GUILTY PARTY; YOU ARE. WE'RE READY TO INCREASE THE SCALE OF TRADE, BUT YOUR SIDE CREATES ARTIFICIAL BARRIERS -- IF I MAY BORROW A COLD WAR PHRASE, YOU HAVE CREATED ON "IRAN CURTAIN" TO EXPANDED TRADE WITH US.

SMITH: WHAT PRODUCTS THAT WE DON'T ALREADY HAVE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SELL US, FOR EXAMPLE LNG AND PETROLEUM?

RUBEN: I DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO SPECIFIC DETAILS OVER PRODUCTS. RATHER, ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES, IF I MAY ADDRESS YOU, I'D LIKE TO STRESS THE DESIRABILITY OF DEVELOPING CONTACTS BETWEEN OUR TWO PARLIAMENTARY BODIES. DO NOT THINK THAT I'M TRYING TO AVOID ANSWERS TO YOUR DIRECT QUESTIONS. IN DISCUSSING ECONOMIC RELATIONS, I SIMPLY WANT TO STRESS A TIME TESTED PRINCIPLE - THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THE BLOCKADE AGAINST THE YOUNG SOVIET REPUBLIC WE SURVIVED AND WE ESTABLISHED A STRONG MIGHTY NATION WHICH CAN BE, AND I'M NOT TRYING TO BOAST, CONSIDERED AN EQUAL PARTNER WITH THE U.S. FROM THE US WE CAN IMPORT TECHNOLOGY

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AND INDUSTRIAL GOODS: WE'RE READY AND WILLING. THE USSR CAN ALSO FIND MARKETS FOR SOVIET INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY. CONTRARY TO OLD FALSE ASSUMPTIONS, WE ARE NOT WEAK IN TECHNOLOGY. IT'S A MISTAKE TO THINK THAT WE'RE AT A PRIMITIVE TECHNOLOGICAL LEVEL. WE FLY IN THE COSMOS JUST AS YOU DO. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SAY THAT NOTWITHSTANDING ALL THE BARRIERS, WE DO HAVE DE FACTO COOPERATION IN SCIENCE, CULTURE, AND ECONOMIC MATTERS. HOWEVER, IS SEE DEFECTS IN TERMS OF LACK OF ADEQUATE COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR PARLIAMENTARY BODIES. SMITH: HOW CAN WE CURE THIS?

RUBEN: IV'VE HAD THE HONOR TO MEET MANY LIKE YOU. AT THIS TABLE, I'VE MET MONDALE WHO IS NOW VICE PRESIDENT, HUMPHREY WHO WAS FORMERLY VICE PRESIDENT, HUGH SCOTT, STAFFORD, SPEAKER ALBERT, AND DERWINSKI. I KNOW ABOUT HALF OF YOUR CONGRESS. HUMPHREY AND I UNDERSTOOD EACH OTHER. SCOTT AND I UNDERSTOOD EACH OTHER; BUT YATES AND I COULDNT UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER. I SPEAK OF THIS TO SHOW YOU THAT WE NEED TO MEET EACH OTHER MORE OFTEN AND TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER. WE NEED TO REACH A COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING SO AS TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS. FOR EXAMPLE, LAST SPRING, VANCE CAME HERE TO DISCUSS SALT BUT HE AND GROMYKO DIDN'T UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER AND SO THEY PARTED WITHOUT ACHIEVING ANYTHING. I MENTION THIS AS AN EXAMPLE OF NOT PERSONALLY UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER. VANCE AND GROMYKO LATER GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER AND THIS LED TO UNDERSTANDING. IF WE CAN ACHIEVE THIS, BOTH SIDES WILL BENEFIT; WE CAN AVOID SETTING OUT ON FANTASTIC TASKS AND RATHER HAVE BUSINESSLIKE MEETINGS. SMITH: THIS MEETING HAS BEEN USEFUL. WE'LL WELCOME YOUR DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON AND WE'LL DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO COOPERATE. RUBEN: I'M SATISFIED THAT WE'VE ALREADY FOUND COMMON LANGUAGE EVEN IN SUCH A SHORT DISCUSSION. WE NNEED TO MEET MORE OFTEN IN ORDER TO REACH PEAKS OF PERFECTION, TO SOLVE CONCRETE PROBLEMS QUITEMY IN A BUSINESSLIKE MANNER. THE SOVIET SIDE HAS LONG BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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READY. IT'S UP TO YOU. WE'RE READY TO MEET ON A MORE REALISTIC BASIS. ANDREWS: I AGREE THAT IT'S IMPORTANT TO MEET PERSONALLY. EQUALLY IMPORTANTLY, WE NEED TO LEARN TO UNDERSTAND THE SYSTEMS WE WORK UNDER SO THAT WE CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT THE OTHER SIDE'S REACTION WILL BE. YOU'VE GIVEN AN EXAMPLE OF YOUR MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN YATES, WHO IS A GREAT INDIVIDUAL. RUBEN: WE SHOULD NOT PUT ONE SYSTEM UP AGAINST THE OTHER. EACH SIDE SHOULD LIVE AND ACT ACCORDING TO ITS SYSTEM. YOU LIVE ACCORDING TO YOURS AND WE RESPECT IT. ANDREWS: WE CAN BE PRO-SOVIET AND EQUALLY PRO-AMERICAN WITHOUT CONTRADICTION. AND THE SAME FOR YOU, ONLY VICE VERSA. RUBEN: WE NEED ONE SINGLE THING: MUTUAL RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER AS HUMAN BEINGS. WE SOVIET PEOPLE ARE NOT INCLINED TO STEP ON THE CORNS OF OTHERS. BUT WE ARE BOUND TO REACT IF OTHERS STEP

ON OUR CORNS. END QUOTE.

3. TEXT OF JANUARY 6 ENGLISH TASS ITEM READS, "CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF NATIONALITIES OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET VITALI RUBEN TODAY RECEIVED VISITING MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES N. SMITH AND M. ANDREWS AT THEIR REQUEST AND HAD A CONVERSATION WITH THEM". UNQUOTE MATLOCK.

UNQUOTE

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